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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

MATSUTORI et al.

Serial No. 10/725,288

Filed: December 2, 2003

For: THIN PLATE SUPPORTING
CONTAINER

) Confirmation No. 2549
) Examiner: John G. Pickett
) Art Unit: 3728
)
)
)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37CFR1.97(c)

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

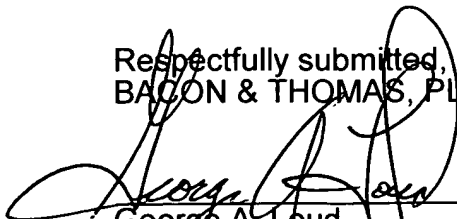
Sir:

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider and cite of record the four documents listed on the attached. Copies of the three "Foreign Patent Documents" are submitted herewith.

The publications cited here are those documents cited in the European Search Report issued November 6, 2006 in connection with European Application 03029812, believed to be a counterpart of the captioned application. A copy of the European Search Report is also submitted herewith. Note that the European Search Report identifies "relevant" teachings.

On information and belief, each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication received from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to today's (December 26, 2006) filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC


George A. Loud
Atty. Registration No. 25,814

December 26, 2006

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/725,288
Filing Date	December 2, 2003
First Named Inventor	Chiaki MATSUTORI
Art Unit	3728
Examiner Name	John G. Pickett
Attorney Docket Number	MATS3024/GAL

Sheet		of		Attorney Docket Number	MATS3024/GAL
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U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. 1	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T6
		Country Codes -Number 4 -Kind Codes (if known)				
		DE 19848147 A1	04-22-1999	Nyseth et al		
		EP 1004524 A1	05-31-2000	OKA et al		
		GB 2338924 A	01-12-2000	Bhatt et al		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.